

## Islamic Statements Against Terrorism in the Wake of the September 11 Mass Murders

*Mustafa Mashhur, General Guide, Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt; Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Ameer, Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Pakistan; Muti Rahman Nizami, Ameer, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Bangladesh; Shaykh Ahmad Yassin, Founder, Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), Palestine; Rashid Ghannoushi, President, Nahda Renaissance Movement, Tunisia; Fazil Nour, President, PAS - Parti Islam SeMalaysia, Malaysia; and 40 other Muslim scholars and politicians:*

"The undersigned, leaders of Islamic movements, are horrified by the events of Tuesday 11 September 2001 in the United States which resulted in massive killing, destruction and attack on innocent lives. We express our deepest sympathies and sorrow. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the incidents, which are against all human and Islamic norms. This is grounded in the Noble Laws of Islam which forbid all forms of attacks on innocents. God Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an: 'No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another' (Surah al-Isra 17:15)."

MSANews, September 14, 2001, <http://msanews.mynet.net/MSANEWS/200109/20010917.15.html>;

Arabic original in al-Quds al-Arabi (London), September 14, 2001, p. 2, <http://www.alquds.co.uk/Alquds/2001/09Sep/14%20Sep%20Fri/Quds02.pdf>

*Shaykh Yusuf Qaradawi, Qatar; Tariq Bishri, Egypt; Muhammad S. Awwa, Egypt; Fahmi Huwaydi, Egypt; Haytham Khayyat, Syria; Shaykh Taha Jabir al-Alwani, U.S.:*

"All Muslims ought to be united against all those who terrorize the innocents, and those who permit the killing of non-combatants without a justifiable reason. Islam has declared the spilling of blood and the destruction of property as absolute prohibitions until the Day of Judgment. ... [It is] necessary to apprehend the true perpetrators of these crimes, as well as those who aid and abet them through incitement, financing or other support. They must be brought to justice in an impartial court of law and [punished] appropriately. ... [It is] a duty of Muslims to participate in this effort with all possible means."

The Washington Post, October 11, 2001, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40545-2001Oct10.html>

Full text of this fatwa in [English](#) and [Arabic](#).

*Shaykh Muhammed Sayyid al-Tantawi, imam of al-Azhar mosque in Cairo, Egypt:*

"Attacking innocent people is not courageous, it is stupid and will be punished on the day of judgement. ... It's not courageous to attack innocent children, women and civilians. It is courageous to protect freedom, it is courageous to defend oneself and not to attack."

Agence France Presse, September 14, 2001

*Abdel-Mo'tei Bayyoumi, al-Azhar Islamic Research Academy, Cairo, Egypt:*

"There is no terrorism or a threat to civilians in jihad [religious struggle]."

Al-Ahram Weekly Online, 20 - 26 September 2001, <http://www.ahram.org.eg/weekly/2001/552/p4fall3.htm>

*Muslim Brotherhood, an opposition Islamist group in Egypt, said it was "horrified" by the attack and expressed "condolences and sadness":*

"[We] strongly condemn such activities that are against all humanist and Islamic morals. ... [We] condemn and oppose all aggression on human life, freedom and dignity anywhere in the world."

Al-Ahram Weekly Online, 13 - 19 September 2001, <http://www.ahram.org.eg/weekly/2001/551/fo2.htm>

*Shaykh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Shi'i Muslim radicals in Lebanon, said he was*

*"horrificed" by these "barbaric ... crimes":*

"Beside the fact that they are forbidden by Islam, these acts do not serve those who carried them out but their victims, who will reap the sympathy of the whole world. ... Islamists who live according to the human values of Islam could not commit such crimes."

Agence France Presse, September 14, 2001

*'Abdulaziz bin 'Abdallah Al-Ashaykh, chief mufti of Saudi Arabia:*

"Firstly: the recent developments in the United States including hijacking planes, terrorizing innocent people and shedding blood, constitute a form of injustice that cannot be tolerated by Islam, which views them as gross crimes and sinful acts. Secondly: any Muslim who is aware of the teachings of his religion and who adheres to the directives of the Holy Qur'an and the sunnah (the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad) will never involve himself in such acts, because they will invoke the anger of God Almighty and lead to harm and corruption on earth."

[http://saudiembassy.net/press\\_release/01-spa/09-15-Islam.htm](http://saudiembassy.net/press_release/01-spa/09-15-Islam.htm)

*Shaykh Muhammad bin 'Abdallah al-Sabil, member of the Council of Senior Religious Scholars, Saudi Arabia:*

"Any attack on innocent people is unlawful and contrary to shari'a (Islamic law). ... Muslims must safeguard the lives, honor and property of Christians and Jews. Attacking them contradicts shari'a."

Agence France Presse, December 4, 2001

*Shaykh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a prominent religious scholar in Qatar:*

"Our hearts bleed for the attacks that has targeted the World Trade Center [WTC], as well as other institutions in the United States despite our strong oppositions to the American biased policy towards Israel on the military, political and economic fronts. Islam, the religion of tolerance, holds the human soul in high esteem, and considers the attack against innocent human beings a grave sin, this is backed by the Qur'anic verse which reads: 'Who so ever kills a human being [as punishment] for [crimes] other than manslaughter or [sowing] corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he has killed all mankind, and who so ever saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind' (Al-Ma'idah:32)."

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2001-09/13/article25.shtml>

See also Qaradawi's web-site: [www.qaradawi.net](http://www.qaradawi.net)

*Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, supreme jurist-ruler of Iran:*

"Killing of people, in any place and with any kind of weapons, including atomic bombs, long-range missiles, biological or chemical weapons, passenger or war planes, carried out by any organization, country or individuals is condemned. ... It makes no difference whether such massacres happen in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Qana, Sabra, Shatila, Deir Yassin, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq or in New York and Washington."

Islamic Republic News Agency, September 16, 2001, <http://www.irna.com/en/hphoto/010916000000.chnp.shtml>

*President Muhammad Khatami of Iran:*

"The horrific terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, in the United States were perpetrated by cult of fanatics who had self-mutilated their ears and tongues, and could only communicate with perceived opponents through carnage and devastation."

Address to the United Nations General Assembly, November 9, 2001, reported in The New York Times, November 10, 2001,

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/10/international/10KHAT.html>

*League of Arab States:*

"The General-Secretariat of the League of Arab States shares with the people and government of the United States of America the feelings of revulsion, horror and shock over the terrorist attacks that ripped through the World Trade Centre and Pentagon, inflicting heavy damage and killing and wounding thousands of many nationalities. These terrorist crimes have been viewed by the League as inadmissible and deserving all condemnation. Divergence of views between the Arabs and the United States over the latter's foreign policy on the Middle East crisis does in no way adversely affect the common Arab attitude of compassion with the people and government of the United States at such moments of facing the menace and ruthlessness of international terrorism. In more than one statement released since the horrendous attacks, the League has also expressed deep sympathy with the families of the victims. In remarks to newsmen immediately following the tragic events, Arab League Secretary-General Amre Moussa described the feelings of the Arab world as demonstrably sympathetic with the American people, particularly with families and individuals who lost their loved ones. "It is indeed tormenting that any country or people or city anywhere in the world be the scene of such disastrous attacks," he added. While convinced that it is both inconceivable and lamentable that such a large-scale, organised terrorist campaign take place anywhere, anytime, the League believes that the dreadful attacks against WTC and the Pentagon unveil, time and again, that the cancer of terrorism can be extensively damaging if left unchecked. It follows that there is a pressing and urgent need to combat world terrorism. In this context, an earlier call by [Egyptian] President Hosni Mubarak for convening an international conference to draw up universal accord on ways and means to eradicate this phenomenon and demonstrate international solidarity is worthy of active consideration. The Arabs have walked a large distance in the fight against cross-border terrorism by concluding in April 1998 the Arab Agreement on Combating Terrorism."

September 17, 2001, [http://www.leagueofarabstates.org/E/Perspectives\\_17\\_09\\_01.asp](http://www.leagueofarabstates.org/E/Perspectives_17_09_01.asp)

*Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference:*

"Following the bloody attacks against major buildings and installations in the United States yesterday, Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, secretary-general of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), stated that he was shocked and deeply saddened when he heard of those attacks which led to the death and injury of a very large number of innocent American citizens. Dr. Belkeziz said he was denouncing and condemning those criminal and brutal acts that ran counter to all covenants, humanitarian values and divine religions foremost among which was Islam."

Press Release, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, September 12, 2001, <http://www.oic-oci.org/press/english/september%202001/america%20on%20attack.htm>

*Organization of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers:*

"The Conference strongly condemned the brutal terror acts that befell the United States, caused huge losses in human lives from various nationalities and wreaked tremendous destruction and damage in New York and Washington. It further reaffirmed that these terror acts ran counter to the teachings of the divine religions as well as ethical and human values, stressed the necessity of tracking down the perpetrators of these acts in the light of the results of investigations and bringing them to justice to inflict on them the penalty they deserve, and underscored its support of this effort. In this respect, the Conference expressed its condolences to and sympathy with the people and government of the United States and the families of the victims in these mournful and tragic circumstances."

Final Communiqué of the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, October 10, 2001, <http://www.oic-oci.org/english/fm/All%20Download/fmex9.htm>

*Mehmet Nuri Yilmaz, Head of the Directorate of Religious Affairs of Turkey:*

"Any human being, regardless of his ethnic and religious origin, will never think of carrying out such a violent, evil attack. Whatever its purpose is, this action cannot be justified and tolerated."

Mehmet Nuri Yilmaz, "A Message on Ragaib Night and Terrorism," September 21, 2001, <http://www.diyaret.gov.tr/duyurular/regaibing.htm>

*Harun Yahya (Adnan Oktar), Turkish author:*

"Islam does not encourage any kind of terrorism; in fact, it denounces it. Those who use terrorism in the name of Islam, in fact, have no other faculty except ignorance and hatred."

Harun Yahya, "Islam Denounces Terrorism," <http://www.islamdenounceterrorism.com>

*Shaikh Muhammad Yusuf Islahi, Pakistani-American Muslim leader:*

"The sudden barbaric attack on innocent citizens living in peace is extremely distressing and deplorable. Every gentle human heart goes out to the victims of this attack and as humans we are ashamed at the barbarism perpetrated by a few people. Islam, which is a religion of peace and tolerance, condemns this act and sees this as a wounding scar on the face of humanity. I appeal to Muslims to strongly condemn this act, express unity with the victims' relatives, donate blood, money and do whatever it takes to help the affected people."

"Messages From Shaikh Muhammad Yusuf Islahi," [http://www.icna.org/wtc\\_islahi.htm](http://www.icna.org/wtc_islahi.htm)

*Abdal-Hakim Murad, British Muslim author:*

"Targeting civilians is a negation of every possible school of Sunni Islam. Suicide bombing is so foreign to the Quranic ethos that the Prophet Samson is entirely absent from our scriptures."

"The Hijackers Were Not Muslims After All: Recapturing Islam From the Terrorists," <http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/masud/ISLAM/ahm/recapturing.htm>

*Syed Mumtaz Ali, President of the Canadian Society of Muslims:*

"We condemn in the strongest terms possible what are apparently vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism against innocent civilians. We join with all Canadians in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators. No political cause could ever be assisted by such immoral acts."

Canadian Society of Muslims, Media Release, September 12, 2001, <http://muslim-canada.org/news09112001.html>

*15 American Muslim organizations:*

"We reiterate our unequivocal condemnation of the crime committed on September 11, 2001 and join our fellow Americans in mourning the loss of up to 6000 innocent civilians."

Muslim American Society (MAS), Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), Muslim Alliance of North America (MANA), Muslim Student Association (MSA), Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), United Association for Studies and Research (UASR), Solidarity International, American Muslims for Global Peace and Justice (AMGPJ), American Muslim Alliance (AMA), United Muslim Americans Association (UMAA), Islamic Media Foundation (IMF), American Muslim Foundation (AMF), Coordinating Council of Muslim Organizations (CCMO), American Muslims for Jerusalem (AMJ), Muslim Arab Youth Association (MAYA), October 22, 2001, [http://www.icna.org/wtc\\_pr.htm](http://www.icna.org/wtc_pr.htm)

*American Muslim Political Coordination Council:*

"American Muslims utterly condemn what are apparently vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism against innocent civilians. We join with all Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators. No political cause could ever be assisted by such immoral acts."

<http://capwiz.com/cair/issues/alert/?alertid=49818&type=CU&azip=>

*Dr. Agha Saeed, National Chair of the American Muslim Alliance:*

"These attacks are against both divine and human laws and we condemn them in the strongest terms. The Muslim Americans join the nation in calling for swift apprehension and stiff punishment of the perpetrators, and offer our sympathies to the victims and their families."

<http://www.arnaweb.org/AMA%20Condemns.html>

*Hamza Yusuf, American Muslim leader:*

"Religious zealots of any creed are defeated people who lash out in desperation, and they often do horrific things. And if these people [who committed murder on September 11] indeed are Arabs, Muslims, they're obviously very sick people and I can't even look at it in religious terms. It's politics, tragic politics. There's no Islamic justification for any of it. ... You can't kill innocent people. There's no Islamic declaration of war against the United States. I think every Muslim country except Afghanistan has an embassy in this country. And in Islam, a country where you have embassies is not considered a belligerent country. In Islam, the only wars that are permitted are between armies and they should engage on battlefields and engage nobly. The Prophet Muhammad said, "Do not kill women or children or non-combatants and do not kill old people or religious people," and he mentioned priests, nuns and rabbis. And he said, "Do not cut down fruit-bearing trees and do not poison the wells of your enemies." The Hadith, the sayings of the Prophet, say that no one can punish with fire except the lord of fire. It's prohibited to burn anyone in Islam as a punishment. No one can grant these attackers any legitimacy. It was evil."

San Jose Mercury News, September 15, 2001, <http://www0.mercurycenter.com/local/center/isl0916.htm>

*Nuh Ha Mim Keller, American Muslim author:*

"Muslims have nothing to be ashamed of, and nothing to hide, and should simply tell people what their scholars and religious leaders have always said: first, that the Wahhabi sect has nothing to do with orthodox Islam, for its lack of tolerance is a perversion of traditional values; and second, that killing civilians is wrong and immoral."

"Making the World Safe for Terrorism," September 30, 2001, <http://66.34.131.5/ISLAM/nuh/terrorism.htm>

*Muslims Against Terrorism, a U.S.-based organization:*

"As Muslims, we condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Ours is a religion of peace. We are sick and tired of extremists dictating the public face of Islam."

<http://www.muslimsagainstiterrorism.org/aboutus.html>

*Abdulaziz Sachedina, professor of religious studies, University of Virginia:*

"New York was grieving. Sorrow covered the horizons. The pain of separation and of missing family members, neighbors, citizens, humans could be felt in every corner of the country. That day was my personal day of "jihad" ("struggle") - jihad with my pride and my identity as a Muslim. This is the true meaning of jihad - "struggle with one's own ego and false pride." I don't ever recall that I had prayed so earnestly to God to spare attribution of such madness that was unleashed upon New York and Washington to the Muslims. I felt the pain and, perhaps for the first time in my entire life, I felt embarrassed at the thought that it could very well be my fellow Muslims who had committed this horrendous act of terrorism. How could these terrorists invoke God's mercifulness and compassion when they had, through their evil act, put to shame the entire history of this great religion and its culture of toleration?"

"Where Was God on September 11?," <http://www.virginia.edu/~soasia/newsletter/Fall01/God.html>

*Ali Khan, professor of law, Washburn University School of Law:*

"To the most learned in the text of the Quran, these verses must be read in the context of many other verses that stipulate the Islamic law of war---a war that the Islamic leader must declare after due consultation with advisers. For the less learned, however, these verses may provide the motivation and even the plot for a merciless strike against a self-chosen enemy."

"Attack on America: An Islamic Perspective, September 17, 2001, <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/forum/forumnew29.htm>

*Muqtedar Khan, assistant professor of political science, Adrian College, Michigan, USA:*

"What happened on September 11th in New York and Washington DC will forever remain a horrible scar on the history of Islam and humanity. No matter how much we condemn it, and point to the Quran and the Sunnah to argue that Islam forbids the killing of innocent people, the fact remains that the perpetrators of this crime against humanity have indicated that their actions are sanctioned by Islamic values. The fact that even now several Muslim scholars and thousands of Muslims defend the accused is indicative that not all Muslims believe that the attacks are unIslamic. This is truly sad. ... If anywhere in your hearts there is any sympathy or understanding with those who committed this act, I invite you to ask yourself this question, would Muhammad (pbuh) sanction such an act? While encouraging Muslims to struggle against injustice (Al Quran 4:135), Allah also imposes strict rules of engagement. He says in unequivocal terms that to kill an innocent being is like killing entire humanity (Al Quran 5:32). He also encourages Muslims to forgive Jews and Christians if they have committed injustices against us (Al Quran 2:109, 3:159, 5:85)."

"Memo to American Muslims," October 5, 2001, <http://www.ijtihad.org/memo.htm>

*Dr. Alaa Al-Yousuf, Bahraini economist and political activist:*

"On Friday, 14 September [the first Friday prayers after 11 September], almost the whole world expressed its condemnation of the crime and its grief for the bereaved families of the victims. Those who abstained or, even worse, rejoiced, will have joined the terrorists, not in the murder, but in adding to the incalculable damage on the other victims of the atrocity, namely, Islam as a faith, Muslims and Arabs as peoples, and possibly the Palestinian cause. The terrorists and their apologists managed to sully Islam as a faith both in the eyes of many Muslims and non-Muslims alike."

Interview with the International Forum for Islamic Dialogue, London, <http://www.islam21.net/pages/keyissues/key7-6.htm>

*Dr. S. Parvez Manzoor, Swedish-based Muslim author:*

"If these acts of terror indeed have been perpetrated by Muslim radicals or fundamentalists, they have reaped nothing but eternal damnation, shame and ignominy. For nothing, absolutely nothing, could remotely be advanced as an excuse for these barbaric acts. They represent a total negation of Islamic values, an utter disregard of our fiqhi tradition, and a slap in the face of the Ummah. They are in total contrast to what Islamic reason, compassion and faith stand for. Even from the more mundane criteria of common good, the maslaha of the jurists, these acts are treasonous and suicidal. Islamic faith has been so callously and casually sacrificed at the altar of politics, a home-grown politics of parochial causes, primeval passions, self-endorsing piety and messianic terror."

Interview with the International Forum for Islamic Dialogue, London, <http://www.islam21.net/pages/keyissues/key7-6.htm>

*Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysian Islamic activist and former deputy prime minister:*

"Never in Islam's entire history has the action of so few of its followers caused the religion and its community of believers to be such an abomination in the eyes of others. Millions of Muslims who fled

to North America and Europe to escape poverty and persecution at home have become the object of hatred and are now profiled as potential terrorists. And the nascent democratic movements in Muslim countries will regress for a few decades as ruling autocrats use their participation in the global war against terrorism to terrorize their critics and dissenters. This is what Mohammed Atta and his fellow terrorists and sponsors have done to Islam and its community worldwide by their murder of innocents at the World Trade Center in New York and the Defense Department in Washington. The attack must be condemned, and the condemnation must be without reservation."

Anwar Ibrahim, "Growth of Democracy Is the Answer to Terrorism," International Herald Tribune, October 11, 2001, <http://www.ihf.com/articles/35281.htm>

*Ziauddin Sardar, British Muslim author:*

"The failure of Islamic movements is their inability to come to terms with modernity, to give modernity a sustainable home-grown expression. Instead of engaging with the abundant problems that bedevil Muslim lives, the Islamic prescription consists of blind following of narrow pieties and slavish submission to inept obscurantists. Instead of engagement with the wider world, they have made Islam into an ethic of separation, separate under-development, and negation of the rest of the world."

Ziauddin Sardar, "Islam has become its own enemy," October 21, 2001, <http://www.observer.co.uk/waronterrorism/story/0.1373.577942.00.html>

*Khaled Abou El Fadl, Kuwaiti-Egyptian-American legal scholar:*

"It would be disingenuous to deny that the Qur'an and other Islamic sources offer possibilities of intolerant interpretation. Clearly these possibilities are exploited by the contemporary puritans and supremacists. But the text does not command such intolerant readings. Historically, Islamic civilization has displayed a remarkable ability to recognize possibilities of tolerance, and to act upon these possibilities."

Khaled Abou El Fadl, "The Place of Tolerance in Islam: On Reading the Qur'an -- and Misreading It," Boston Review, December 2001/January 2002,

<http://bostonreview.mit.edu/BR26.6/elfadl.html>

*See also:*

*Bernard Haykel, assistant professor of Islamic law at New York University:*

"According to Islamic law there are at least six reasons why Bin Laden's barbaric violence cannot fall under the rubric of jihad: 1) Individuals and organizations cannot declare a jihad, only states can; 2) One cannot kill innocent women and children when conducting a jihad; 3) One cannot kill Muslims in a jihad; 4) One cannot fight a jihad against a country in which Muslims can freely practise their religion and proselytize Islam; 5) Prominent Muslim jurists around the world have condemned these attacks and their condemnation forms a juristic consensus (ijma') against Bin Laden's actions (This consensus renders his actions un-Islamic); 6) The welfare and interest of the Muslim community (maslaha) is being harmed by Bin Laden's actions and this equally makes them un-Islamic."

The Dawn newspaper, Karachi, Pakistan, October 8, 2001, <http://www.dawn.com/2001/10/08/op.htm#2>

*See other collections of statements:*

Omid Safi, Colgate University, "Scholars of Islam & the Tragedy of Sept. 11th,"  
<http://groups.colgate.edu/aarislam/response.htm>

Tim Lubin, Washington and Lee University, "Islamic Responses to the Sept. 11 Attack,"  
<http://home.wlu.edu/~lubint/islamontWTC.htm>

The Becket Fund, "Osama Bin Laden Hijacked Four Airplanes and a Religion," October 17, 2001,

<http://www.unc.edu/~kurzman/terror.htm>

11/22/2002

<http://www.becketfund.org/other/MuslimAd.html>

Islam for Today, "Muslims Against Terrorism,"  
<http://www.islamfortoday.com/terrorism.htm>

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